# HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE STUDIES

Chilean National Prosecutor's Offices Second Summit on Trafficking in Persons of Iberoamerican National Prosecutors

September 21-23, 2011

Assistant United States Attorney Richard S. Moultrie, Jr. Northern District of Georgia Victim Identification Markets Where Human Trafficking Occurs

Sexual Exploitation
Prostitution
Exotic Dancers
Massage Parlors



- Forced Labor
  - Sweat shops
  - Domestic
  - Agriculture
  - Restaurant

United States V. Juna Gwendolyn Babb and Michael Babb

**Forced Labor Prosecution** 

## **Indicted Offenses**

1.Conspiracy to Engage in Forced Labor; Document Servitude; and Harboring an Alien

**2.Forced Labor** 

**3.Document Servitude** 

4. Harboring an Alien for Financial Gain

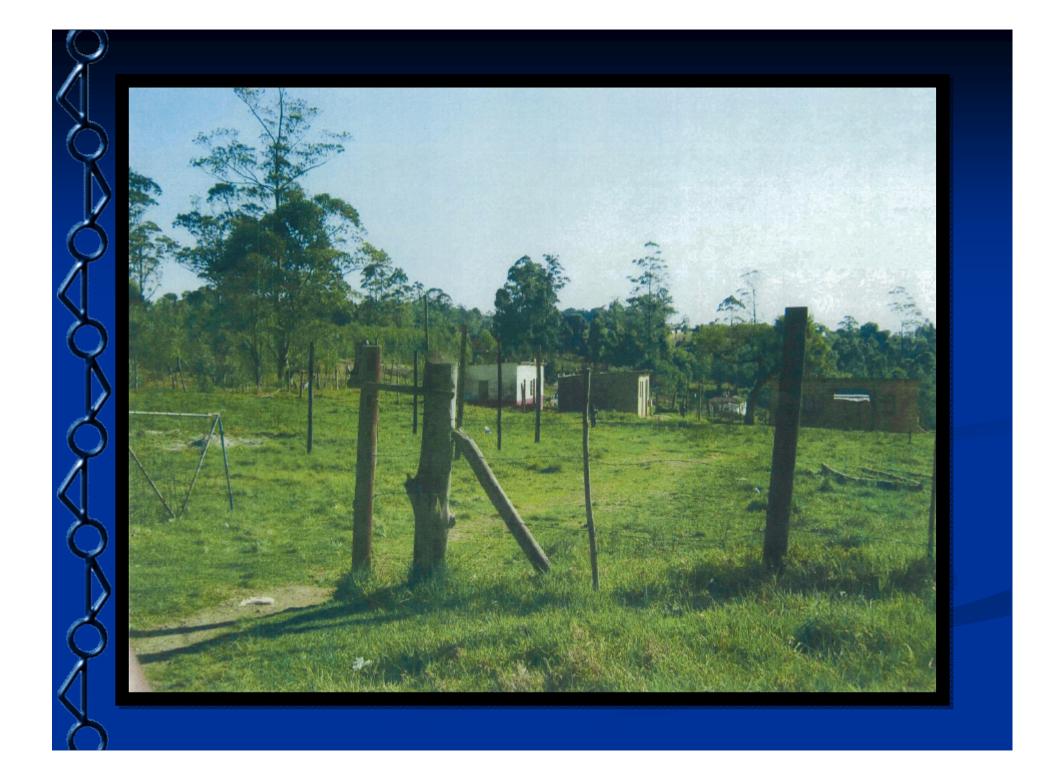
**5. False Statements to Federal Agents** 

# **Defendants' Recruitment of Victim**

Victim – 29 – year-old Native of Kingdom of Swaziland, Africa

1.

- 2. Defendants invited her to US to help cater a wedding; but there was no wedding
- Defendants, a minister and his wife, used their religious background to overcome victim's doubts





Defendants' Acts Prior to Victim's Travel

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Paid for her visa and plane ticket

- Mailed her a sponsorship letter falsely claiming that victim would attend wedding
- Coached victim on how to lie to consular officials

Convinced victim not to bring personal items

# Defendants' Conduct Upon Victim's Arrival in U.S.

- Forced victim to work as housekeeper and nanny
- Maintained victim in their home for two and half years while forcing her to work
- Threatened her with arrest and deportation
- Threatened her with debt owed for trip to U.S.

## Important Ways of Corroborating Victim of Forced Labor

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- Sponsorship letters
- Financial documents, like payment records for victim's travel expenses
- Returned checks for payments made to defendants for victim's work for others
- Victim's statements to others about her treatment

Corroborating Victims of Forced Labor

Photographs of any physical injuries

Statements from the defendant's family members/acquaintances that victim labored in the home

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Immigration checks to determine if a defendant has "sponsored" other aliens

### **Common Defenses – Why Not Leave?**

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- Wanted to come to U.S. at any cost
- Pictures of victim appearing happy
- No evidence of restraint or physical force
- Attended social gatherings, like church meetings

United States v. Chesire Robinson Also known as "Candyman"

> Sex Trafficking of a Minor Prosecution





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## Indicted Offenses

1. Conspiracy to Engage in Sex **Trafficking of Minor** 2.Sex Trafficking of a Minor 3. Transporting a Minor for Prostitution 4. Possession of a Firearm as a **Convicted Felon** 



Victim: 16-year-old girl already involved in prostitution

Defendant drives her across state lines

Defendant use victim as a prostitute on streets of the city, and at motels, 6 nights a week, for as long as 10 hours

 During mere 8 weeks he earns more than \$14,000 from her work

Beats victim on occasion

Providing Child in Interstate Commerce for the Purpose of Commercial Sex

Age: Victim and sister told Defendant child's age; she also told him she wanted to return to school; Defendant's live-in girlfriend said the victim "looked" 17 years

**Commerce:** Use of national hotel chains; Internet; truck stops engaged in interstate activity; moved child across state lines

Use of Victim: Defendant housed the child; offered her for sex for money; recruited her for the purpose





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### **Common Defense Arguments**

Victim Willing: Victim already on the street working as prostitute; victim sought out pimp/defendant; BUT: child victim's willingness to engage in sex act NOT a defense

Unaware of Age: Government can prove Defendant's knowledge by showing that he deliberately chose to ignore facts indicating victim was a minor

Victim's Story Changes: Defense points out minor changes in victim's accounts of the crime

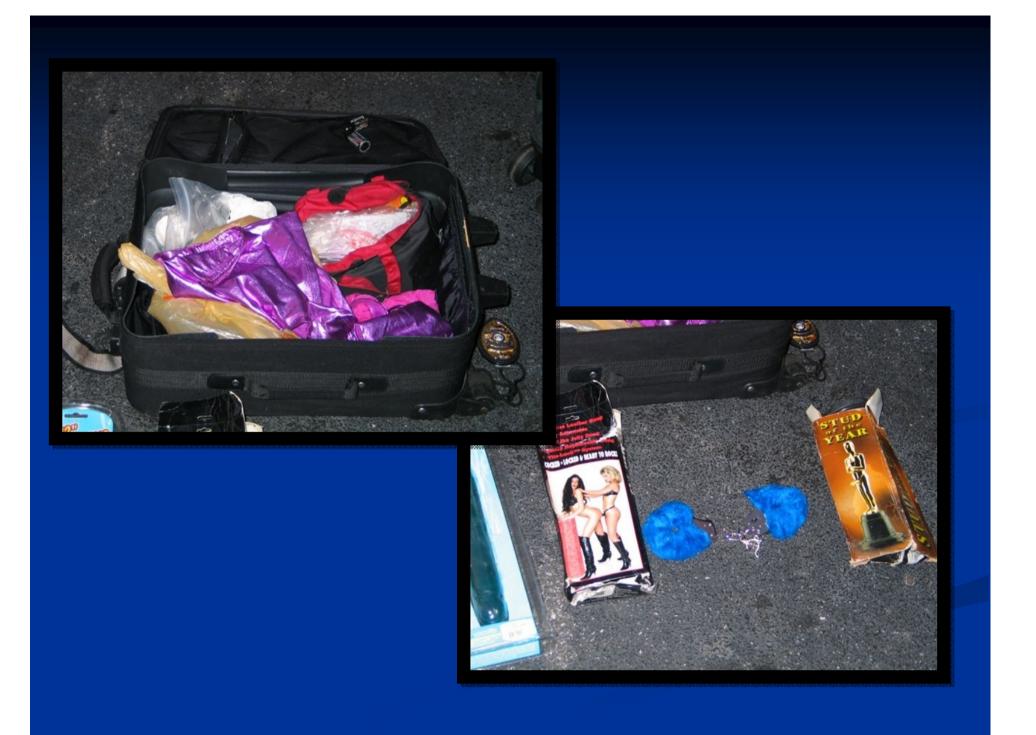
# Critical Importance of Seizing Physical Evidence

- Phone Records, Especially Text Messages
- Money Transfers
- Hotel Receipts
- Physical Surveillance to Link Physical Locations to the Trafficking Offense
- Use of Vehicle Trackers

# DEBTS

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# Victim Issues

Extremely Fragile Victims

May be the "perfect victims" for these crimes (vulnerabilities)

Victims may have been prostitutes before; drug use; willing to engage in some consensual sex; compromising photos, pornography

# Victim Issues

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Many don't trust law enforcement

Many are ashamed or afraid

Many outright refuse to testify